(c) what steps Government would take to expand and strengthen the treaty formulation and treaty negotiations; and

(d) the time-frame to obtain adequate organizational strength to tackle India's diplomatic and treaty requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNALAFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (d) Recognizing the need to develop specialized skills in international law and multilateral legal framework, the Government had set up a dedicated Legal and Treaties Division in the Ministry of External Affairs. This Division is the nodal centre for issues related to international law, including treaty making and treaty negotiations, and its work has expanded and diversified over the years. However, austerity measures have prevented the Division's expansion.

Reviewing of various agreements

155. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the Legal and Treaties Division to carefully assess and review various agreements concerning our EEZ area;

(b) whether it is a fact that diverse treaties like IOTC and other EEZ related agreements had been hastily approved decades ago;

(c) whether Government would review all treaties where Indian interests have been negatively and badly affected; and

(d) the steps proposed to take the views of stakeholders of Indian EEZ before approving and returning international treaties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNALAFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No.

(c) and (d) The Union Government, with the approval of the Cabinet, concludes all treaties and agreements with foreign countries. The views of all concerned Ministries are taken into account before becoming party to any international agreement. The Government constantly monitors the impact of treaties on national interests.